



# Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol  
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

www.sos.arkansas.gov

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## New Technology Could Help Counties Better Manage Voter Information

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels has teamed with the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (GIS) in a pilot project that uses Emergency 9-1-1 address codes to improve voter registration technology.

The pilot project tests the possibilities of a technique known as "geocoding," or coordinating address records in the voter registration lists with road centerline data created for Emergency 9-1-1 systems. GIS and Election staff used the technique to pinpoint voter addresses along roadways in Madison and Monroe counties. With that information, county clerks can generate detailed, color-coded maps that show precisely where addresses are located within voting precincts, school districts, legislative districts, and other voting divisions.

"This technology could be a powerful, time-saving tool for county clerks around

the state," Daniels said. "Having that capability would help make sure the voter lists are completely accurate and uniform across county lines."

The geocoding project would be invaluable in the state's transition to a centralized voter registration database, required under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). One of the benefits of the GIS program is that addresses are converted to a uniform format, which helps correct data entry errors and identifies conflicts within the 9-1-1 system, as well.

According to Shelby Johnson, state coordinator for the Geographic Information Office, the pilot program shows the potential for geocoding, which could be useful for many state and local agencies.



*With political signs on every corner, it's easy to see that it's election year in Arkansas! It's always an exciting time for me personally because, realizing all the sacrifices so many have made to protect it, I cherish my right to vote. But this election season is even more gratifying because it's my first term as the state's chief elections officer.*

*I'm glad to report that the May 18 primaries ran well with 311,000 voters going to the polls. That number met our initial projections with a 19 percent turnout among the state's 1.6 million registered voters. Early and absentee voters accounted for roughly 15 percent of those total votes.*

*Turning our attention to the Presidential races, we want to take advantage of public interest to get new voters to register and go to the polls. In this issue of Capitol Report, you'll read about programs we're initiating to boost voter turnout.*

*See you at the polls November 2!*

## Officer Honored With Life Saving Award

Capitol Police Corporal Eric Watson was honored for his role in preventing a suicide near the State Capitol in April. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels and Capitol Police Chief Darrell Hedden presented Corporal Watson with the Life Saving Award and a Capitol Citation during a ceremony held in the Capitol rotunda.



Corporal Eric Watson (left) and State Capitol Police Chief Darrell Hedden

On April 21, 2004, Corporal Watson was instrumental in preventing

an emotionally disturbed juvenile from attempting suicide. A tip from a motorist put Corporal Watson first at the scene on the Battery Street Bridge where a juvenile was standing on the outer ledge overlooking Interstate 630. Watson contacted the Little Rock Police Department, the Arkansas State Police and MEMS to respond to his location for assistance. With interstate traffic stopped, a

(See WATSON Cont. on Page 2)



501-682-1010

WATSON (Cont. from front page)

LRPD officer distracted the juvenile and Corporal Watson was able to pull him from the bridge to safety. The juvenile was taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital for treatment.

"We are very proud of Corporal Watson for his quick thinking and professional response that saved the life of that young person. What an honor it is to be able to acknowledge and celebrate such a courageous effort by one of our officers in the line of duty," said Secretary Daniels.

An officer is issued a Life Saving Award when it is felt or believed that their actions saved an individual's life. The award was first issued in 1999, Corporal Watson being only the third officer to receive it.

## 2003 Annual Report

The 2003 Annual Report from the Secretary of State is now available. The 16-page publication details the many accomplishments made under Charlie Daniels during his first year in the office. To receive your copy, call (501) 683-0057 or e-mail [arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:arsos@sosmail.state.ar.us).

### Do You Need A Speaker?

If you would like someone from the Secretary of State's office to speak to your organization, please call 501-682-1010. Presentations are available including such diverse topics as the functions of the Secretary of State's office, current voter services, a history of the Capitol Building, and the importance of Arkansas's role in the Louisiana Purchase.

## State Capitol Blood Drive



The annual State Capitol blood drive, held April 8, collected 39 pints for the American Red Cross. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels (left) was among more than 45 participants from the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

## Summer Workshops Offer Tools for Teachers

To help promote Arkansas history, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels currently is conducting a series of summer workshops for Arkansas teachers that demonstrate how the State Capitol can serve as a teaching tool.

"Using the State Capitol to Teach," targeting grades 3-12, provides an overview of the educational materials and resources available from the Secretary of State's office. Those resources include specialized tours of the State Capitol, student activity books, website content and voter education programs. The workshops demonstrate how these tools can be used to teach Arkansas history, civics/government and American history, as well as art and architecture. Teachers receive four hours of in-service credit for attending the workshop.

Workshops are being held at educational cooperatives throughout the state, with the first hosted at the State Capitol on June 15.

To sign up for one of the remaining workshops, e-mail Education and Program Services Coordinator Ann Clements at [apclements@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:apclements@sosmail.state.ar.us).

### Teacher Workshop Schedule

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>July 7</b>   | Southeast Arkansas Education Service Center,<br>Monticello,<br>9 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| <b>July 28</b>  | Arch Ford Education Service Co-op, Plumerville<br>9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.           |
| <b>August 4</b> | DeQueen/Mena Education<br>Co-Op, Gillham,<br>9 a.m. - 4 p.m.                   |



## Elections Division Focuses on Voter Outreach

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels has launched a program to educate Arkansans on new election laws and to boost turnout in this election year. Known as ELECT — Energetic Leadership Educating Citizens Together — the program includes publications, events and media campaigns designed to inform and empower voters.

“Arkansas has a fairly high rate of voter registration with about 80 percent of eligible adults registered,” Daniels said. “But only about half of them actually turn out to vote. They’re letting other people make decisions for them.”

To combat the problem, Daniels has developed several targeted components in the ELECT program:

**One Vote Counts** — This campaign emphasizes the power every citizen holds. One vote is often the deciding margin in smaller local elections, but individuals are also vital on a large scale, as noted in the 2000 presidential election.

“That race was decided by about 500 votes out of more than 105 million voters nationwide,” Daniels said.

The “One Vote Counts” message is being conveyed through public service announcements, voter registration drives and other means.

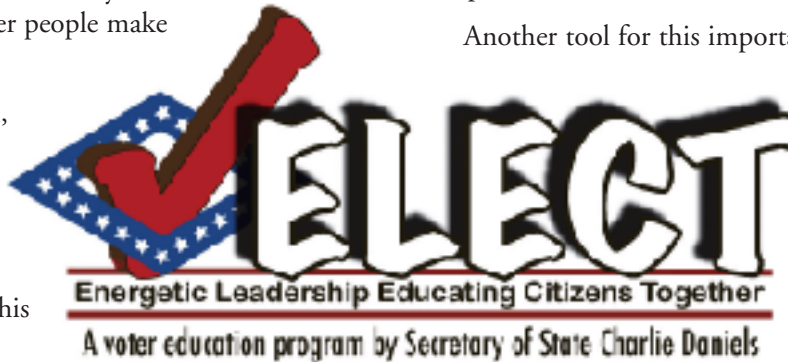
[www.wannabeheard.org](http://www.wannabeheard.org) —Arkansans under age 25 are targeted through a campaign known as “wannabeheard.org” (Wanna Be Heard). Television ads, a website and publications illustrate to young Arkansans that without a vote, they have no voice.

“More young adults are voting for the next American Idol than are participating in the election process,” Daniels said. “We have to give them a reason to care enough to go to the polls.”

Another tool for this important age group is a voting guide created especially for young voters in conjunction with the “Declare Yourself” voter education project. Download it at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).

**Other online resources** — As more citizens turn to the Internet for information, the Secretary of State is offering more online resources for voters. News on candidates, voting procedures and the latest elections results are available at [www.arelelections.org](http://www.arelelections.org).

**Voting 101** —This plain-language booklet provides a step-by-step guide to registering and voting. To request copies of “Voting 101: A Pocket Guide to Voting in the Natural State,” or for more information on any of these programs, call the Elections Division at (800) 482-1127.



Delegates from the American Legion's Girls and Boys State programs completed their week-long government workshop with a visit to the State Capitol on June 3 and 4. Monica Ashcraft of White Hall and Greg Eberhard of Harrison served as Secretary of State on their respective days. They spent the morning learning about the duties of the office, writing letters and visiting their fellow officers.



## Capitol Briefing

### Police Promotions

Theo Pierce has recently been promoted to assistant chief of the State Capitol Police. He has served as interim assistant chief since mid-2003.

State Capitol Police Officer David Hughes was promoted to the rank of sergeant on April 26. He has served with the State Capitol Police force for seven years.

### New Smoking Policy Begins

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels has announced new restrictions on public smoking areas at the Capitol building. Smoking is now banned under the east entrance tunnel, a major thoroughfare for visitors. State Capitol staff and others doing business in the building are encouraged to use the north and south entrances and porticos for smoking. Those entrances have restricted access and are not open to the general public.

### Waymack Joins SOS Staff

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is proud to announce the staff addition of Melissa Waymack as Director of Public Affairs. Waymack most recently served as director of communications for the Democratic Party of Arkansas. She has also served as director of the Communications and Education Division for the Secretary of State.



In her new role, Waymack will be handling public and governmental relations, outreach and education.

### Home Inspector Board

Effective July 1, 2004, home inspector registration will shift from the Arkansas Secretary of State's office to the Arkansas Home Inspector Registration Board, chaired by Lyman Walker. The board is located at 813 West 3rd Street, Little Rock, AR 72201-2103. For more information, call (501) 683-3710 or e-mail [info@ahib.org](mailto:info@ahib.org).



Secretary Daniels (center) welcomed State Auditor Jim Wood to the recent open house celebrating the new Business and Commercial Services offices. Also pictured at left is Phil Jordan, a BCS team leader. The division moved into state-of-the-art facilities in the Victory Building, just east of the Capitol grounds on Capitol Avenue.

### New Partnership with Kids Voting Arkansas!

New civics curriculum, *Civics Alive*, for grades K-12 is now available to teachers across Arkansas through a partnership with Kids Voting Arkansas. These activities will help make learning about politics and voting relevant and fun for students. Kids Voting Arkansas is a member of Kids Voting USA, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grass-roots driven voter education program that seeks to educate children about the importance of an informed electorate and how voter participation sustains our democracy.

The curriculum debuts at teacher workshops this summer. CDs of the curriculum will be available from our office after July 1 and can be ordered by calling (501) 682-3472.

### Restorations Continue Under New Grants

The Arkansas State Capitol was awarded \$560,000 from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Commission (ANCRC) to continue restorations to the promenade at the east front of the Capitol grounds. Restoration of the handicap ramps and replacement of the lighting on the staging area of the front Capitol steps are a few projects that will be funded under the grant.

The Secretary of State's office is funding the refurbishing of the first floor entryway and the cleaning of the marble in that area.

The restorations to the Monument to Confederate Women, the Monument to Confederate Soldiers and the War of 1812 Memorial, funded under a previous grant from ANCRC, are scheduled for completion by early July.

## Students Sought for ELECT Internship

As part of the voter education program known as ELECT, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is offering a new internship program for high school students to help them get an early start in Arkansas politics.

Daniels invites high school sophomores and juniors to apply for the ELECT intern program that will begin this coming fall. Registration forms are now available and are due by September 13.

ELECT interns will conduct monthly citizenship activities at their respective schools to help get their fellow students interested in the political process. They

can choose to conduct voter registration drives, serve as poll workers, organize a mock election or other activities.

Candidates will be selected based on geographic location, teacher recommendations and a 250-word essay on the importance of voter education.

For more information or to obtain an application form, call Carder Hawkins in the Secretary of State's Elections Division, (800) 482-1127, or e-mail him at [jchawkins@sosmail.state.ar.us](mailto:jchawkins@sosmail.state.ar.us).

### New Franchise Tax Rates for 2005

As part of its funding plan for improvements in the state's education system, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 94 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003, which increases the state's franchise tax. The new rates will apply to the 2004 tax year, due on May 1, 2005. For more information, log on to [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).

The following chart compares the current Franchise Taxes due on June 1, 2004, with the new rates payable in 2005.



Franchise Tax Type	Tax due through the 2004 Reporting Year	Effective 2005 Reporting Year
Bank/Corporation with Stock	.27% of the total assets \$50 minimum	.3% of the total assets \$150 minimum
Bank/Corporation without Stock	\$100	\$300
Limited Liability Company	\$50	\$150
Insurance Company Legal Reserve Mutual with stock greater than \$100 million	\$200	\$400
Insurance Company Legal Reserve Mutual, stock less than \$100 million	\$100	\$300
Insurance Company Outstanding Capital Stock Greater than \$500,000	\$200	\$400
Insurance Company Outstanding Capital Stock Less than \$500,000	\$100	\$300
Mortgage Loan Company	.27% of the total assets \$100 minimum	.3% of the total assets \$300 minimum
Mutual Assessment Company	\$100	\$300

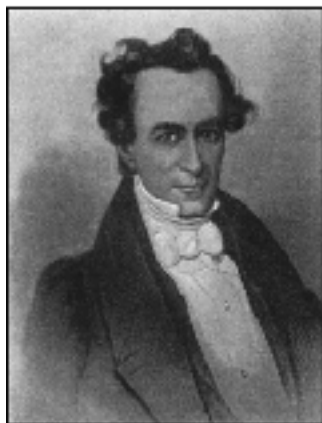
Note: 26-34-105, Franchise tax reports.

d)(1) Every corporation that dissolves shall be required to pay at the time of dissolution the franchise tax for the prior calendar year and pay at the time of dissolution the minimum franchise tax for the year in which dissolved or withdrawn.



## REFLECTIONS: A LOOK BACK ON STATE CAPITOL HISTORY

In October of 1820, the Legislature of Arkansas Territory voted to move the seat of government from Arkansas Post to “the little rock,” near the point at which the old Southwest Trail from St. Louis settlements crossed the Arkansas River. The transfer involved competing land claims, dubious deeds and a cast of assorted characters that included Missouri land speculator and future “father of Texas,” Stephen F. Austin. Recently rediscovered documents in the Secretary of State’s office help shed light on the change of venue.



Stephen F. Austin

One document is a proposal dated February 21, 1820, from Amos Wheeler, local agent for a group of land speculators. Wheeler promised to furnish the Legislature land and a meeting space “..of about eighty-two feet by thirty-two feet square, and a chamber over the same of the same dimensions (sic), gratuitously for the time of three years.” This offer was backed by a performance bond, also now in the possession of the Secretary of State; Wheeler’s bondsmen were none other than Chester Ashley and Stephen Austin himself. Ashley, Austin and their partners asserted a cloudy

claim to the land near the little rock. The same area was also claimed (with stronger basis) by rival speculators. Each group sold shares in its claimed property; the result was that by October 1820, most of the new territory’s influential politicians had invested in one claim or the other. On May 10 1821, clashes between rival claimants led to many of Little Rock’s first buildings being burned or dragged off their foundations. Eventually, however, the rival claimants reconciled and the way was cleared for Little Rock’s permanent establishment.

The Wheeler proposal and his performance bond were identified by Adam Bergfeld, a Public History student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, as part of an internship with the Secretary of State. Bergfeld has arranged and described a diverse collection of documents long lodged in the files of the Business and Commercial Services Division. The documents are a mixture of obscure papers, outdated receipts and a few gems that add valuable insights into the “way Arkansas was.”



6-04

### Charlie Daniels

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